

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A computer-based method of managing a network of physicians, comprising the steps of:

- providing secure access to the network to a client through a computer terminal;
- allowing said client to request a referral for a specific medical need;
- retrieving from a referral database information about at least one physician capable of handling the referral;
- displaying said information for said client;
- allowing said client to select said at least one physician;
- requesting a response from said client to at least one inquiry established by said at least one physician;
- securely transmitting patient information from a client database to said at least one physician after receiving a response to said inquiry;
- generating a request to have said at least one physician provide medical services;

and

- tracking said request to ensure that the medical services are provided.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said client is selected from the group consisting of an HMO, a PPO, a POS plans, a TPA, a self-insured employer, a health insurance carrier, and a payor.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of confirming that said client is authorized to access said network of physicians.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said physician database comprises a plurality of physician profiles.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein each of said plurality of physician profiles includes said at least one inquiry.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of interfacing with a client computer system to upload demographic information.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of recruiting at least one physician to participate in said network of physicians.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of providing independent review of the referral prior to the step of generating said request.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of tracking the success rates and costs of referrals among the network of physicians.